solution as he worked.

ter (T) and numbering that letter 1, the letters on the margin of the paper.

THE OLD JOKES' HOME. SSOO

Sheet after sheet of paper he covered with figures, tore up and threw away. Its eyes ached and his head was dizzy.

ut still he worked on. At the top of

each fresh page he would write the

words "The Girl in Blue," and would

pply to its letters every combination

Long after midnight, his mind be

ng too weary to wrestle with any more

leeply complicated theories, he tried in

desperation a clue of which had seem

to him so easy that it could not be the

real key to the seemingly hard prob-

He recalled a story he had once read

of a child found, with a locket around

"The Gold Bat's Head." A character

the story had discovered the phrase

is brain could devise.

STNOPSIS OF PRECEDING CHAPTERS. Hilds Gilchrist, a stenographer, is engage whose sole hefress she is, was reputed rich. Hyde Clayton, Hilda's employer, is anxious to marry her in order to find some clue to this uncle's estate. Clayton's henchma Esra Raynor, offers to help his master strong box of her uncle an apparently blank sheet of paper. On this paper words and digures are treated in sympathetic ink.

> CHAPTER VIII. The Cryptogram.

HE paper, exposed to the fire's warmth, read: Hilda-In the following cryptogram you willy read the directions for finding my wealth. If you have been clever enough to discover to be a cipher, and had worked it out this paper you will be clever enough to work as follows: Beginning with the first letout the cipher. For a key, remember my

Then followed the ensuing crypto-

9-(18)-8-(13)-(21), 8-(18)-1-3-(21) 3-1-(12) (12)-(18)-(17)-(19)-6-5-(21)-5-8-4 (19)-3-6-(21)-(18)-8-(11)-7 (17)-(25) (19)-3-6-(21)-(18)-8-(11)-7 3-(21)-1-11-1-3 (22)-5-7-7 9-3 (16)-(18)-0-8-(13) 5-8 9-(18)-(24) H-N-L-R-E (18)-(14) 2-(11)-(17)-5-7-1-(16)-8 (21)-(11)-(14)-3 (18)-4-(19)-(18)-(21)-5-1 (18)-(18)-(17)-(19)-(11)-8-(25) 8-(11)-(21)-(21)-(11)-0 (21)-1-6-3-3-1.

Together the lovers went over th cryptogram and then read it again and ovet again. Then Bruce copied it on the back of an envelope.

"We don't seem so very much nearer the fortune," hazarded Hilda at last. "That tumble of figures makes my head

"Wait." muttered Bruce, still poring over the cipher. "We may be able to work it out after all. The dashes between the various numbers probably indicate that the numbers separated by such dashes all belong to the same word. Where no dash follows a number or letter it evidently means that one word is ended and that another is about to begin. It's the same as the ordinary space between words in ordinary printing. For instance, the first three figures, 1-3-3, must form the first word, and the figures 9-(18)-8-(13)-(21) must form the second word, and so on."

"And the cipher or cryptogram is to be solved by finding a key to the meanings of those various numbers and letters I suppose, and by applying that the cipher," added Hilda. "But how to find the key?"

that pet name, dear? Do you remem-

"Why, he had no especial pet name for ery, 'he always used to speak of me as employed in their order to represent the 'The Girl in Blue.' Do you suppose that letters of the alphabet not found in the sould have been what he means? I told phrase. you blue was his favorite color and he "That's it!" cried Bruce excitedly, in Blue" instead of "The Gold Bat's always liked me to wear it. He'-"THE GIRL IN BLUE!" That's the Head" as a key. key to the cipher. Now to work it out." Reluctantly he took his leave, as the inner hour arrived. But, late into the

101 Prizes in All.

Five Prizes, each...... 10 Seventy Prizes, each....... Twenty-five Prizes, each....

"Do you mean to say you've been working in this cold room till 2 o'clock in the morning over that old crypto-

"But, dear, I've solved it! I've solved tt! I'VE SOLVED IT!" chanted Hilda.
"Well, what does It all mean?" asked Adele, with the maptyr-like air common to people who think they've been need-lessly awakened. "Does at tell you where to find Capt. Kidd's treasure or

THE MYSTERY EXPLAINED.



"I've solved it! I've solved it at last!" cried Hilda Joyously.

second letter 2, and so on, he had sub-"Your uncle has given us a clue to stituted the first nine numbers and a 0 that, teo." answered Bruce. "See, in for the first ten letters. Where one let-the note that precedes the approgram ter appeared more than once he applied he says the clue will be found in his to its repetition the number designates taverite petname for you. What was for it on its first appearance. Thus, the "T" in the word "Bat" was num-bered "1." Hence 123 4567 8910 stood for "The Gold Bat's" and 2397 for for me," said Hilda, in a puzzled voice, "Head." Following the first ten num-"except"-she added in a flash of mem- bers, the ensuing numerals had been

Bruce applied this simple rule to the

As he applied the simple rule to word after word in the cryptogram he grew more and more excited and jubiman tolled away at the cryptogram. Int. "I'm on the right track at last!" he "T've solved it—I've solved it at last!"

THE BEST WAY TO POP THE QUESTION.

"Good!" he muttered after applying | cried Hilda joyously. easier than I dared to hope."

implete translation of his cipher "And to think I might have solve this hours ago if only I'd tried the easier method first," he laughed to himself as he put out the light and sank into dreams of rescuing Hilda from monster treasure chests hurled at her by pirates, each of whom had Hyde Clayton's saturnine visage and Ezra

Raynor's red-rimmed eyes. At almost the same moment a de cidedly pretty girl, clad in a pink wrapper and further protected from the ghill night air by the masses of wavy hair that billowed over her shoulders was excitedly shaking the shoulder of her slumbering room-mate .
"What is it? What's the matter?

Win Some of the \$500 for Xmas Money.

SIMPLE, easy cipher will be found in one of the twelve chapters of "The Girl in Blue." You are expected to solve

that cipher and write the solution in the blank given below. The cipher in question was not the one given in the first instalment, but is the cryptogram which appears in the eighth chapter. In other chapters besides that

which contains the cipher hints as to its solution will be scattered. In the eleventh chapter, for instance, occurs

There are many ciphers in existence, but the one which competitors are here shown consists of the using

these words will follow. By the exercise of a little thought and ingenuity the cipher may be readily translated.

blank and send it to "Girl in Blue Editor of Evening World, P. O. Box 1364, New York City."

sentence which contains the first eight words of the twenty-three words comprising the translation of the cryptogram

ures for letters. Four words will be given as a start in the key, and the other letters of the alphabet not found in

The story will end on Saturday, Dec. 19, and answers will be received up to noon of Monday, Dec. 21. Fill out this

Solve the Simple Cipher in This Story and

had translated.

Adele, all the sleep mists brushed from her brain, regarded her open-eyed and open-mouthed.

and open-moduled.
"I verily believe you'ref on the right track at last!" she gasped. "Oh, you lucky, lucky girl. Let's go right away to the place he designates?

"At 2 A. M.? It's barely possible we'd, find it closed at this hour. But the first

thing in the morning"-Gray gleams of that same morning were already superseding the darkness of the night before two eagerly whispering, excited, happy girls, were able to close their eyes. Enough air-castles had been built mean while to stretch from

passed a sieepless night. Nor was Adele frenzy of rage and endeavored to as-

denly and so strangely discovered her-self to be his wife Hyde Clayton had whose vigilant and efficient efforts in re-entered his bachelor rooms. Curiosity as to the result of his ruse as well for the Prevention of Craelty to Humor, proach and anger must be gone through

He softly entered the sitting-room of his bachelor quarters prepared to en-counter a wild outbreak of vengeance but Officer Sullivan believes in long on the part of the duped bride.

wife calmly discussing a slip of paper on which figures were written. A faint flush of anger rose to Muriel's pale cheeks at sight of him, but it died no longer in commission, guards the

senses. He turned for explanation to of manner. Ezra. The latter returned his look with an expressionless stare. "Here is that cipher Miss Gilchrist's incle left ther," said Muriel, handing Clayton the paper. "I found this copy

The cipher in question was, of course, the first one, with which the reader is already familiar, and was not the crypogram quoted at the beginning of this

"We have solved this between us," she said. "I believe—in fact I know—you have not the wit to translate it I"— It was her ourpose to offer to sell him the secret. But to her surprise (not knowing he had overheard Bruce's solution, in the effice, the evening he had telephoed, in the latter's name to Furlong' Cloyton answered coolly.

"Oh. yes: I've deciphered it. It tells of a box in the Aaron Burr Safe Deposit vaults, but"—

He was about to see that it was a

man, and he threw one of his thick-"I wonder why Jane is willing to marry that stupid young Sappington?" 251 SI. Big Stock Cast. Big Vaudeville.
RESERVED SEATS ON SALE IN ADVANCE
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THE MOREY INSTITUTE.

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WALLACK'S Broadway and 30th at. 2.15 COUNTY Mannies play in OUR NEW MINISTER BARGAIN MATINES TO MORROW. 25 500

NEW EMPIRE THEATRE. NEW LYCEUM W.45th st. E. of B' way.
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AND "THE SACRAMENT OF JUDAS." 3 D AVE. Next CARRIE NATION in TEN Mat. Thurs. [NIGHTS IN A BARROOM.

Letters! Letters!

Old Dr. Dowle are one and the same person? They look and act exactly allke, Is it true that Old Dr. Lemonosky and

the Old Jokes' Home was closed for re-

pairs on account of hot weather washe-

Mr. Sap is greatly mistaken. There is only one Old Dr. Lemonosky. He is

An Offection.

time, but now, now that we are all so happy and unsuspecting, you propose to free them.

Depen, Dockstade

PROF. JOSH M. A. LONG.

much older than old Mr. Dowie.

You did a noble and generous

Prof. Josh M. A. Long:

Prof. Josh M. A. Long:

VERBUM SAP.

Scandal at the Sanitarium! Inmates All Frantic!

By Prof. Josh M. A. Long.

THE release of the renewed and re-juvenated old gags from the Old Jokes' Home has been the cause of brought way musical productions, Officer Sulli-van violently assaulted those who many an affecting scene as former em-When remonstated with by Prof. Josl d. A. Long and Old Doctor Lemonosk ployees, of the weary old wheezes were ployees of the weary old wheezes were M. A. Long and Old Doctor Lemonosk officer Sullivan lost all control of her former employers and friends.

Yesterday, however, a contretempts fakir and a quack" and Prof. Josh M.
A. Long "a grafter"—whatever tha may mean.
His conduct is now being investigated Meanwhile his duties as watcher at the portal are being performed by the matron of the home. Mary Mushandmilk at whose hands all who come to secure the release of old jokes may expect courteous treatment.

If there is a joke you have missed and if you will give bond not to overwork it come and get it out.
That trade may not stagnate, that the art of oratory may not die, that the theatres may no longer languish, we are going to open the Old Jokes' Home an let out the immates. Come and get you favorite old jokes. All we ask is the they be not abused.

Letters! Letters! Long and Old Dr. Lemonosky are in no the little boarding-house room to the wise responsible. Officer Jerry Sullivan, of the S. P. C. H., for some inexvery gates of Paradise. pheable reason, grew insulting to in-Hilda and Bruce had not been the mates and visitors of the home and only characters in this story who had when remonstrated with flew into a cassed a sieepiess night. Nor was Auete sault our eminent and celebrated superintendent Prof. Josh M. A. Bong and An hour after the conversation be-tween Ezra and the woman who so sud-Examiner Old Dr. Lemonosky.

as to the result of his ruse as well with the Busy Blue Ambulance and as the knowledge that a scene of re-Joe-Miller, the good old chestnut, the proach and anger must be gone through only horse with a hyphen, in capturing with sooner or later incited him to the and incarcerating old jokes, is not in accord with the present policy of the managers of the institution in releasing To his amaze he found husband and old jokes committed to the home.

For some days past it has been no sentences, especially in the matter of

ticed that Officer Jerry Sullivan, who now that the Busy Blue Ambulance is away and she greeted him civilly. Hyde could scarce credit the evidence of his more brusque of speech and gloomier Are the groceries used at your cole-brated institution, the Old Jokes' Home, from the Odell Grocery Company, New-burg, N. Y. PLATT L TUDG.

To all visitors to the Old Jokes' Home he has invariably made the following interrogation:

"Put in or take out?" Where the visitor or patron brough livan's manner became profusely polite. In case, under our recent ruling, the visitor was one whose business was in connection with the release of an inmate, Officer Sullivan was offensively rude. In the case of some friends of the two old lady jokes, formerly employed in a sister skipping-rope dance, and three venerable old witticks formanity at large, keep them, leed them locked up strong and you will suffer. Once more I ask you, for my sake, for your sake, for the large, keep them, leed them locked up strong and you will suffer. Once more I ask you, for my sake, for your sake, for the large, keep them.

. ARMOR SOLES.

"Collegion with the trolley-car?"

soled shoes."-Chicago News.

"How did the bridal party make out?"

"The carriage, was wrecked before

THE REASON WHY.

CASTORIA For Infants and Children.

The Kind You Have Always Bought

Amusements.

PROCTOR'S To-day, 25c., 50c. "No; the bride's brother is a college

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> To-nisht, KATE CLAXTON The Two Orbital
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> 5 WEEKS. Bestinning
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> BEDINT & ARTHUR: KEOUGH, &
> BALLARD, 4 Huntings & many others BELASCO THEATRE EVE S THATP CROSMAN IN DAVID BELASCO'S NEW PLANTS Manhailan Charles Richman CAPT, BARRINGTON.

KNICKERBOCKER Thea., B'way & 3 ANNAHELD IN MANUSELLIN LAST B. RORERT B. MANTELL

IN THE CORSICAN BROTHERS

N STAR Lex. Av. & 107th. Mat. Mob., E GENTLEMAN BY DAY. BURGLAR METROPOLIS EVER S.15. Maj

MINER'S A BARLEM EV ORE IN CAPESIN

NN'S MONTAUK, Wad and Sal FAY TEMPLETON BUNAWAYS

sary for the reader to follow the entire story.



BY MARGARET HUBBARD AYER

THERE seems to be as many ways of popping the question as there are men and wemen to do it. The grdent, the perfunctory and the purely practical and business-like man each gives us his peculiar way of coming to the point, and each letter gives us an ansight into the writer's heart.

As to the propriety of a girl's taking the matter in her own fair hands, there seems to be a decided difference of opinion. Should she, or should she not? Us it placing her in a wrong light or verdict of the sex on this vital subject. Leap year is a topsy-turvy year, any-Leap year is a topsy-turvy year, anyhow, with an extra day thrust in to
keep it out of the cold, so to speak.
Bo. if leap year means an excited and
overcrowded calendar, and this time a
Arenuous Presidential campaign, why
should not woman make it a red-letter
year for herself, availing herself of the
privilege bestowed on her hundreds of
years ago by mere man in those rightly
called "dark ages," Never for an instant did he suppose that his humble
hund-maiden would dare to make use
of the rights so condescendingly given
ther. Now she flaunts them in his face.
But I rather think he likes it. Don't
you?

from a Woman on the Least Embarrassing Way for a Girl to Pop the Question During Leap Year

\$10 FOR THE BEST LETTER from a Man Giving Directions. How to Pop the Question Most Con-

FOR THE BEST LETTER from Man or Woman on the Most Delicate Way of Refusing an Offer

Address letters to Margaret Hubpard Ayer, Evening World, N. Y. City

pelled to decline your proposal. For-give me that I cannot love you as you deserve to be olved, and try to forget that you have honored me by your choice. J. B.

. The Sweetest Way of All. Dear Miss Ayer:

THE best directions on the subject of "How to Pop the Question" are Gently enfold her in thy arms and whisper ' you be mine?" LOUIS PRICE.

When He's Not Good at Talking. SUGGEST this more of popping the question: Miss Brown, will you be my wife? I cannot say all I think, for I am not good at talking, but if you will marry me I shall be always telling

how glad you have made me, and it will not be all talk. FREDERICK SIGGLEROW. The Coup de Grace,

Dear Miss Ayer: HE most delicate way of refusing an offer of marriage that I can think of is this: The lady can say to him-"I love no man enough to wed him." This is a coup de grace. C. L.

too long.

EDITED BY MARGARET HUBBARD AYER. \$10 FOR THE BEST LETTER, if he intends to make her his wife. If he refuses, why, well and good, and if he does not refuse, why, let him don't let him waste your valuable time

A CHRISTMAS GIFT MOTHER WOULDN'T GIVE HER BOY.

Jerome he takes his highball, The Doc he takes his nip; The barkeep rolls his eyeball And the grafter smacks his lip.

Jerome, he waves his trusty axe, The Doc's talk 'gins to soze; The man 'gainst whom they make their cracks Keeps right on selling booze.

F these long, hollow-stemmed glasses One never knows what to get him;" none the less acceptable for that rea- declare to be "just the thing." As the

But I rather think he likes it. Don't

Bring Him to the Point.

Dear Miss Ayer:

Beling Him to the Point,

Dear Miss Ayer:

Should be a young lady and gentleman are keeping company for a year or long. Allow me to express my grate.

In this is a coup de grace.

These long, hollow-stemmed glasses and straightway they sally forth and straightway they are pegged on do not appeal to the Christmas bachelor.

These glasses, however, would be a more the rule than the exception are more the rule than the exception are more the rule than the exception in the not appeal to the Christmas bachelor. These glasses, however, would be a more the rule than the exception in the not appeal to the Christmas bachelor. These glasses, however, would be a more the rule than the exception in the not appeal to the Christmas bachelor. These glasses, however, would be a more the rule than the exception in the not appeal to the Christmas bachelor. These glasses, however, would be a more the rule than the exception in the not appeal to the Christmas bachelor. These glasses, however, would be a more the rule than the exception in the not appeal to the Christmas bachelor. These glasses, however, would be a more the rule than the straightway they are more the rule than the exception in the power and